(b) The condition 1(b) of the Career Advancement Scheme for ICAR Scientists has been prescribed for the reason that the main mandate of ICAR is research as distinct from the universities which are primarily teaching institutions. Since it is more important for a Scientist to show evidence of his achievements in research rather than participation in Refresher Courses/Summer Institutes/continuing education programmes, the ICAR has modified the condition regarding participation in refresher courses/ Summer institutes/continuing education programmes.

(c) The pay package as approved by the Government is being implemented.

Production of Oranges

3293. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of Oranges in the country during the last three years;

(b) how much of this production is annually being used for processing purposes; and

(c) what is the Governments policy about Orange processing units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Official estimates on production of oranges in the country are not collected, as this is not a forecast crop. However, as per rough, estimates production of oranges during 1988, 1989 and 1990 in the country was 1700, 1800 and 1854 thousand metric tonnes, respectively.

(b) and (c) Less than 1 per cent of the total production of oranges is being used for processing. Orange processing is encouraged by Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

High crop yielding programme during eighth plan

3294. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning a high-yielding programme for nearly 78 million hectares during the Eighth Plan Period;

(b) what crops would be the focus in this programme; and

(c) what is the estimate of the area in Andhra Pradesh which would benefit from this programme in the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government has proposed a High Yielding Variety Programme for nearly 75.00 million hectares during the Eighth Plan period.

(b) The crops to get focus in this programme are paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize and ragi.

(c) It is estimated that nearly 55.00 lakh hectares would be benefited from this programme in Andhra Pradesh during Eighth Plan period.

Development of Aquaculture

3295. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be plesed to state:

(a) what are the schemes under implementation to develop aquaculture;

(b) wheher Government have given any financial assistance to the States for the deevlopment of aquaculture;

(c) whether there is any proposal to strengthen extension services to assist small aqua farmers in Andhra Pradesh;